Acknowledgements

Many thanks to my father, Dr John Davidson, and my sister, Rosalind Ta’eed, for their support in this endeavour. This work was initially prepared as a doctoral thesis with The Australian National University. I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of my supervisors, Professor Andrew Byrnes and Professor Peta Spender, as well as those of Dr Gregor Urbas and Professor John Braithwaite.

It is my hope that this book will contribute to the global debate about the blood diamonds problem, and help to stimulate renewed interest in safeguarding and improving the lives of the many people affected. To do so, I believe we must look beyond economic value to the intrinsic value of human life and dignity, which is synonymous with a spiritual perspective:

It is said that in South Africa, a diamond mine is discovered. Although this mine is most valuable, yet after all it is stone. Perchance, God willing, the mine of humanity may be discovered and the brilliant pearls of the Kingdom be found.

Abdu’l-Baha (1844–1921)